

The Wobbly Oscillator



Hams Who Serve

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

October 2023 Volume 53 Number 10



Foster Brown Special Guest At The October Meeting

From The Prez

Toby, WJ8D

Annual Elections

We will hold our annual election for CARS officers and even year Executive Board members at the November monthly meeting. At the October meeting we will host nominations for those positions.

It looks like we will have some changes this year with our longtime treasurer Bob, W8GC retiring. We must take a minute to thank Bob for expertly managing our finances and essential business for so many years. Besides leaving the club with a great legacy, Bob is also leaving some very big shoes to fill.

We invite all members to consider nominating qualified candidates for all positions. We always offer the choice for any member to self-nominate himself or herself as well; no need to feel modest, we always can use the assistance.

Special Guest

We will have a very special program at our October meeting. Without being redundant, we can't help but repeat the "press release" which appears on the CARS website homepage and the meeting notice down the page.

Foster Brown, alias "Digger Gallagher the Canaler," will provide a living history presentation of the Canal Era through song, story, and audience participation. Digger actively teaches listeners about the daily life of the canalers, from digging the ditch to working on the canal boat. Digger will artfully take you on a journey into a part of Ohio's past. Foster is a historical interpreter and naturalist from the Brecksville Nature Center.

This sounds like a show you would have to pay admission for, don't miss it!

Cleveland Hamfest

CARS participated in the Cleveland Hamfest Sunday, September 24th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds with a two table club display and items for sale. The tables were manned by several club members including John, NU8Y; Scott, AC8NW; Ron, K8RJH, and myself.

Even though a hamfest is about selling equipment, which we did, we also promoted CARS with a slideshow and brochures. We spoke with many hams about our fine club inviting them to meetings, encouraging them to tune into our weekly nets, and check out our website.

We visited with the ARRL Section and Division representatives discussing various League and ham radio topics.

Even if you couldn't make the Cleveland Hamfest, rest assured you and your club was well represented.



Scott, AC8NW; Toby, WT8O, and John, NU8Y, ready to sell, meet, and greet.



Scott Yonally, N8SY, visits with Ron, K8RJH, as he checks out the CARS table.



Vince, N8OVW, being the trooper he is, makes it to the CARS hamfest table soon after his hospital stay.



Rakin' it in.!



George, K8KR, and Metro, W8MET, sign up a new member as they represent the QCWA.

September Meeting Minutes

LOCATION - The meeting was held on September 12th, 2023, at the Busch Funeral Home on Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio

CALLED TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTIONS - Those present introduced themselves; 16 attendees, including one guest, attended the meeting.

AUGUST MINUTES - The August minutes were approved as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Check, W8GC, reported on the club's financial situation. No issues or concerns were identified.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Toby Kolman, WT8O, reported the following:

- Cleveland Hamfest is on September 24th from 8:00 AM until noon. CARS will have two tables for members to sell items and advertise the club.
- Update on Vince Bak, N8OVW
- Summer picnic was a fun event with good weather, good food, and great company.
- Two positions need to be filled:
 - Holiday party committee chairman
 - Photographer
- Thank you to everyone who contributed to the WO. Our newsletter is all original content!
- Please use the roster to look up a member's contact information. Check your entry on the club roster to ensure your information is accurate. If your entry changes, please get in touch with the webmaster to get it updated.



Bob, W8GC, yuks it up before the meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Ron Hollas, K8RJH, reported the following:

- Consider the Value of ARRL Membership!
- Support CARS with your Membership renewal!
- The following information was obtained from Mike Walters, W8ZY, - ARRL Staff.
 - ARRL Advocacy - The "Shortwave Modernization Coalition" (SMC), FCC RM-11953, as reported last month, has progressed to an FCC Working Committee for evaluation. The US Coastguard, in August, filed non-supportive comments that the proposal would interfere with Maritime communication activities. No FCC Timetable has been released for the Proposed Rulemaking. Additional information can be found on the ARRL website in the "Regulatory & Advocacy" section.

- Great Lakes Director Election - Ballots for the Great Lakes Director and Vice Director will be available late this month for an October 2023 Election. Candidates include Scott Yonally, N8SY, running against Michael Kalter, W8CI, for the ARRL Great Lakes Director. The successful elector will serve a three year term beginning Jan 1, 2024.
- ARRL Magazines - Be sure to contact ARRL Member Services at 1-860-594-0200 If the member wishes to continue receiving *QST* by mail after January 1, 2024. Check out the ARRL website for additional information and pricing.
- Latest ARRL Podcast - September/October 2023 issue, "Foxhunting Basics." Rob Zielfelder, N1NUG, explains how to get started with a couple of handheld radios and a directional antenna that you can make from inexpensive hardware store materials.
- ARRL Audio News – For the latest in Amateur Radio News and Developments, available and posted weekly every Friday.



John, NU8Y, wins big.



Bob, K8RGI, gave a fantastically detailed and interesting presentation on his remote station.



Smiling as always, Ron, K8RJH, reported on the latest ARRL news.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Alternate Secretary Matt Neely, NU8H, had nothing to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE - Chuck, K8CVM, shared the following upcoming events that need volunteers:

- The following events still need volunteers:
 - Coast to the Oast - September 23rd
 - Cleveland Hamfest - September 24th
 - Making Strides of Northeast Ohio - October 21st
- Visit <https://n8esq.org/> for more details.

VE UPDATE - Metro, W8MET, sent an update to Toby in which he shared that during the last test session, one person got their Technician license, and two people upgraded from Technician to General. The next VE session is Sunday, November 12th, at 9:15 AM.



Terry, KB8DTC, makes CARS history by buying his first ever 50/50 ticket.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Joe, KD8BAL, reported that

- For today's program, Bob Robbins, K8RGI, will explain how he remotely operates his home station.
- October - Foster Brown from the Brecksville Nature Center will present a living history of canal life.
- November - Dr. Linus Vaitkus, KE8KOJ, will talk about COVID, flu, and RSV.

TECH COMMITTEE - Scott, AC8NW, no update

REFRESHMENTS - Toby, WT8O, thanked Ron, K8RJH, for soft drinks and water, Matt, NU8H, for doughnuts, and John, NU8Y, for coffee.

OLD BUSINESS - Toby, WT8O, led a discussion on the following:

- 10 meter (HF) net
- WO print version
- New badge design
- CARS clothing
- In-field events



NEW BUSINESS - Toby, WT8O, led a discussion on the following:

- During the October meeting, we'll do nominations for the 2023 Officers
- Net controllers
 - Send net reports to wt8o@att.net
 - Check the new script. This is a reminder to be careful with the word "digital."
- Ron, K8RJH, reminded folks of the upcoming CW classes.

If anyone is interested, contact David, AC8TN.

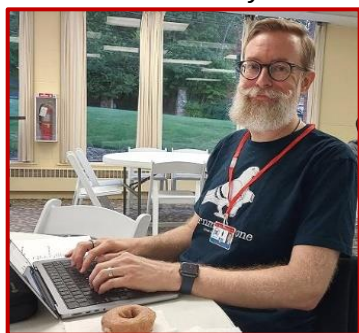
NEXT MEETING - The next CARS meeting will be at the Busch Funeral Home on Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio.

50/50 Drawing - John, NU8Y, won the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings back to CARS.

ADJOURNMENT - Toby, WT8O, adjourned the meeting.

After the meeting, Bob Robbins, K8RGI, presented how he remotely operates his home station.

Submitted by Matt Neely, NU8H,
CARS Alternate Secretary



Matt, NU8H



September VE Session

Once again, Metro, W8MET, expertly led his outstanding VE team consisting of Gary, NI8Z; George, K8KR; Fred, K8IG, and Linda, N8LRS to another successful VE Session on Sunday September 10th, 2023, at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center in Independence.

One ham passed his Technician exam becoming a licensed amateur. Congratulations to Dave Velardo, KE8ZEA, and welcome to the Amateur Radio Service. Philip Hulver, KE8YUQ, and Jeborah Sheets, KE8YPP, upgraded to General, well done by all.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, November 12th, at **9:15 AM*** at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net

As always, walk-ins are welcome.

October Net Shed

Oct	4	AC8TN
Oct	11	WT8O
Oct	18	K8RJH
Oct	25	KD8ACO

**Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on:**

146.820 (PL 110.9)

**443.825(+) PL Tone 131.8
Digital Yaesu Fusion / C4FM
Linked to the 146.82 Repeater**

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

Allstar Node 47067

WIRES X Node 91242-Room 01242

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Analog Repeater

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

WIRES X Node 91242 Room 01242

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.820 Repeater

Brecksville

444.75 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Analog Repeater

Not Linked to Other Repeaters

Shaker Hts.

Soldering Iron Trivia

Ron, K8RJH

Middle English: from Old French **soudure**, from the verb **souder**,
from Latin **solidare** 'fasten together', from solidus '**solid**'.

One of the basic skills that an amateur radio operator can learn is the ability to solder. It has numerous applications useful for building, bonding, and repairing items that we use in everyday life. Many amateurs may not know of or appreciate the history of the modern soldering iron that helps make our modern life possible.

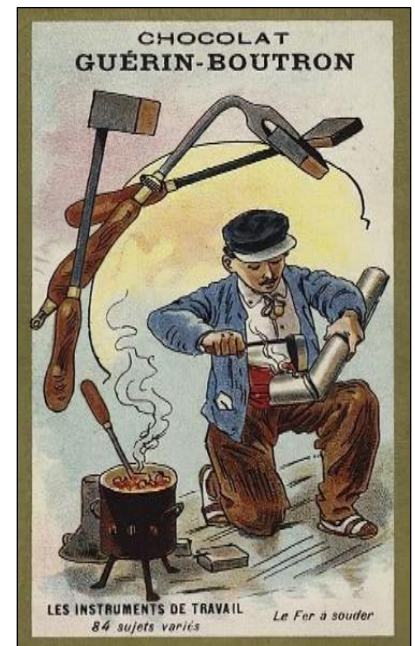
The Cambridge Dictionary defines soldering as "joining pieces of metal together using solder." Solder is a filler material containing one or more alloys that create a stable and robust jointed structure by using a filler material that melts at a distinctively lower temperature than the adjoining metal components which prevents damage to any heat-sensitive components.

The precise origins of soldering are not clear in history, but the technique has been in use for over 5,000 years. Ancient Egyptians melted gold and silver together to create pieces of jewelry. Then the next innovation occurred approximately 4,000 years ago when tin was discovered and used as a low temperature solder filler. This basic principle of metal joining has then been improved and continually refined for thousands of years. From ancient times soldering has been used to make jewelry, cookware, cooking tools, and assembling stained glass. Today, a typical home has numerous examples of soldering, including bonding copper pipes used in heating and air conditioning systems, to household electronics found in everyday use. Almost anything a radio amateur uses depends on a solder joint for its manufacture or operation.



*Example of Soldering
used in Ancient Bronze
Art. (L)*

*Soldering before the
electric iron. (R)*



There are three innovations with soldering tools that shaped the soldering process we use today:

The launch of the modern soldering tools began when the American Electrical Heater Company's Richard Snyder and August Tinnerholm were granted a patent in 1896 for the invention of the "electric heating apparatus," or what's better known as the modern electric soldering iron. This invention came to be known as "American Beauty," when it was first presented at the World's Fair in 1893, by a member of the press who described this device with this name! The effective heating power was in the range of 200 to 500 watts. It created heat for soldering many metals without a flame burner.

The next pioneer of mechanized soldering was Ernst Sachs. Having patented the first “electrically operated” soldering iron in 1921 introduced as the ERSA H-1 tool. The H-1 tool was designed to be used in high volume manufacturing lines requiring a stable temperature source for soldering component devices. It was known for its range of applications (soldering, cutting, molding) with ease of use and consistent results. His company, ERSA, was named using first letters of his fore and family names.

Another pioneer, Carl E. Weller, was granted the first patent for a handheld solder gun in 1941 and started to mass manufacture his invention in 1945. The solder gun created medium to high heat soldering temperatures with a very short wait period of several seconds. In 1959, Weller went on to manufacture soldering tools in Germany, with his company becoming one of the leading players in the industry.

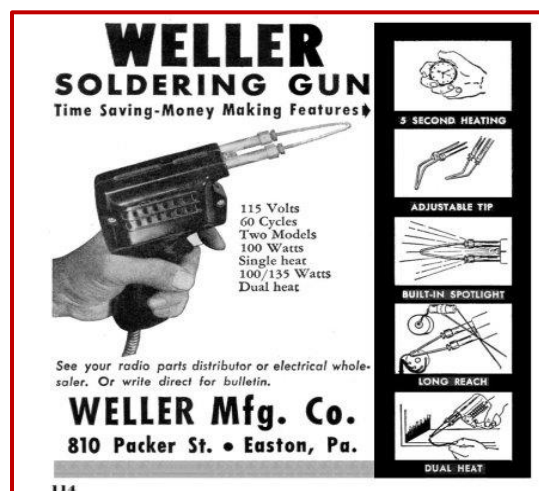
All three of these innovative soldering tools have since inspired generations of modern soldering solutions we may all find in our toolkits and workshops. They all are invaluable in building and maintaining our Amateur stations.



The ERSA H1 – “Electrically Operated” soldering iron tool.



“American Beauty” soldering iron with 500 heating Watts.



Weller soldering gun advertisement. (1948)

“The secret of good soldering is to use the right amount of heat. Many people who have not soldered before use too little heat, dabbing at the joint to be soldered and making little solder blobs that cause unintended short circuits.” [“The Art of Soldering” - February 2001, QST.]

Surprisingly, no one person is credited for the invention of the common electric heater, though the earliest electric heaters used Thomas Edison's light bulb technology! Albert Leroy Marsh is often credited as the father of electric heating as in 1905 he developed a metal alloy Chromel (80% nickel and 20% chromium) that was a safe and durable electric heating element used in household appliances such as soldering irons, heaters, and toasters.



Beginners guide on perfect soldering.



Modern soldering

Antenna UV Protection

David, AC8TN

Simpson, N8UZF, and I spent the better part of a day helping Metro, W8MET, with his antenna work. Our goal was to cover the elements with UV protecting paint.

The project began by disconnecting the tower's six guy lines. We needed to lower several wire antennas that were in the way. We lowered the telescoping tower from 40 feet to 25 feet. We then tilted the tower to the ground. Next we sprayed the SteppIR "trombone" elements with UV protecting paint. After the painting was done, we reversed the process getting all the antennas back to their original positions.

It was a fun day, and we are glad the antenna is protected for another five years. Summer is antenna-working season!

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 10 - 7:30 PM

Busch Community Room

7501 Ridge Rd. – Parma

Foster Brown

Alias Digger Gallagher the Canaler

Will provide a living history presentation of the Canal Era through song, story, and audience participation. Digger actively teaches listeners about daily life of the canalers, from digging the ditch, to working on the canal boat. Digger will artfully take you on a journey into a part of Ohio's past. Foster Brown is a Historical Interpreter and Naturalist.

See Website for Details - www.2cars.org



Metro, W8MET, and Simpson, N8UZF, spraying the antenna with the UV protecting paint shown below.



Low-Tech Power

John, NU8Y

There were a lot of storms this past August that seemed to just pop up, wreak havoc, and disappear right away. Sometimes the storms were so localized that you could be caught up in one and just a few miles away it might be calm and sunny.

At around 3:00 PM on Thursday, August 24, it started getting dark outside. I was in the basement when my wife yelled down to me telling me that it was starting to look really scary outside. I ran upstairs to check it out as she was running downstairs. She warned me to stay in the basement. Out the back window it looked like a winter white-out storm. The wind was blowing, and the house was shaking. Tree limbs and branches were already scattered across our deck. I thought for sure this must be a tornado. I quickly snapped a few pictures and ran back downstairs. Within a couple of minutes, the storm was gone.

When I came back upstairs and started exploring, I was amazed at the amount of damage that had just occurred. There were multiple trees and large limbs blocking the street. The tall grasses behind the house were matted down flat all in one direction as if someone had combed them down with a hairbrush. I quickly called the Sky Warn number to report the incident and identify my location. The lady asked if I had spotted any rotation, but I told her that I couldn't really see anything because so much stuff was blowing around. She said that she didn't have any other reports of storms in my area.

From my observation, only five streets in our neighborhood were affected, covering an area of about a quarter of a square mile at most. Power lines were downed on three different streets. Fallen trees were blocking two streets. First Energy had multiple crews working to restore the power, but it wasn't until late Sunday afternoon that power was back on.

Attached to my house is a 30 foot tall VHF antenna with multiple guy wires and a 66 foot long EFHW antenna that terminates in a big tree. To my amazement, they both survived the storm.

However, while power was out to the house, I was still able to get on the VHF radio and communicate with fellow hams thanks to battery power.

When I was in the CARS technician license class a few years ago, we talked about powering radios. David, KD8ACO, said that you could use a 12V car battery to power a radio. So rather than buy a power supply, I decided to get a battery to power my first radio. I bought a \$20 garden tractor battery from Rural King and hooked it up to a small trickle charger. After about five years, this setup is still working for me.

Welcome to my low-tech emergency communication system.



Only a few minutes after the brutal storm began.



The battery powered the Yaesu 7250 at left using no commercial power.

A Great Big Thanks!

David, AC8TN

I was first licensed in 1976 as a novice, with the call WN8ASZ. In 1977 I became WD8ASZ when I upgraded to General. I bought a used three element Hy-Gain Yagi (10M, 15M, 20M), rotator, and a 10 foot section of tower. Mounting the tower section to the house's chimney and adding guy wires gave me a beam that was more than adequate during that sunspot cycle.

Now fast forward and me getting back into the hobby in 2013, and once again I am looking for another beam. Given the proximity of my neighbors, it did not seem like a good idea to install a 40 or 50 foot tower. Instead in 2015, Metro, W8MET, and I installed a six band Hex Beam on a Glen Martin eight foot tower on the roof of my house. I have enjoyed my Hex Beam for over eight years. I have worked the world and the antenna has been very reliable. During the past few years, I had dreams of a beam with more gain that would be within my roof tower's mechanical limitations. I finally pulled the trigger in February of 2022 and ordered a three element SteppIR, without the 30M/40M trombone. This was a special order from the factory because this particular antenna configuration was not in their current catalog. Having only 6.1 square feet wind load and weighing 51 pounds made it a perfect match for my Glen Martin quadpod. The SteppIR arrived in June of 2022.

The SteppIR remained partially assembled for 15 months, due to a number of extenuating circumstances. I am very happy to inform you all now, that on 9/9/23 the Hex beam was replaced with the three element SteppIR. At 9:00 AM on that Saturday, six CARS members arrived at my QTH and with great speed, agility and dedication completed the whole replacement process in two and a half hours. In addition to swapping antennas, we also installed a new rotator, mast, thrust bearing, coax and rotator control cable. On Wednesday evening 9/13/23, I made my first contacts with the new beam; Australia, Western Sahara, and Hawaii. I think this antenna upgrade will be a big boon in helping me join the ARRL DXCC Honor Role.

The six member CARS work team included Scott, AC8NW; Joel, K8SHB; Andy, KD8SCV; Ron, K8RJH; Simpson, N8UZF, and Metro, W8MET, for an encore performance.

Special thanks to Ron for taking all the photographs that you see in this article.

Hams helping Hams is a commendable activity and I will forever be grateful to the above mentioned gentlemen who made my dream come true!



The Crew.



The QTH of what a serious ham dreams about. Way cool!



Board Meeting Minutes

On September 28th, Members of the CARS Executive Board met to discuss several topics:

- The format for future meetings was discussed. The general consensus was Board meetings would be announced giving Board members at least two weeks prior notice. Time and location of the meetings would be conveyed to all CARS members via email inviting them to attend. It was determined Thursday evenings would be the most convenient time to meet. Ron, K8RJH, offered to set up Zoom meetings if the need arose. Those present agreed dinner meetings would be a conducive atmosphere for the meetings.
- The possibility of giving members the option of receiving the *Wobbly Oscillator* via US mail was discussed. Those who would desire to have a hard copy delivered to their homes would be asked to bear the costs of publication and delivery.
- The Board reviewed the current design of the member badge and determined a new design would be in order.
- It was suggested designated officers should be given a debit card for the club's checking account to simplify purchases and eliminate the complication of reimbursement.
- It was proposed members email addresses and their pictures would be added to the website roster with each individual's permission.

The above measures will be further considered at the next Board meeting.

Submitted by Toby Kolman, WT8O, CARS President.

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwayne Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H
Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG, SK
Elected 5/14/19

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, SK
Elected 8/10/21

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication if credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net

CARS 2023 Officers, Committees and Board Members

Committees

Audit

Chair: K8RJH

Members: WT8O, KD8FTS

ARRL Liaison

Chair: K8RJH

Christmas Party, Summer Picnic

Chair: WT8O

Members: K8ARP, KD8FTU, KD8FTV, WJ8WM

Fund Raising

Chair: W8GC

Members: K8RJH, KE8OZU, WA8GCR

Historian

Chair: WT8O

License Classes

Chair: KD8ACO

Members: K8SHB, WT8O

Membership

Chair: WT8O

Member: W8GC

Audio/Video

Chair: AC8NW

Awards

Co-Chairs: W8GC, WT8O

Field Day

Co-Chairs: K8RGI, WT8O

Members: WJ8WM, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8TN, AC8NW, K8RJH

Hamvention Bus

Chair: KD8FTS

Member: WT8O

50/50

Chair: KD8SCV

Media Representative

Chair: KD8SCV

NET

Chair: WT8O

Newsletter

Chair: WT8O

Property Custodians

Members: KB8DTC records, W8GC
donations to sell, WT8O Quartermaster

QSL Manager - W8BM

Chair: W8MET

Scholarship

Chair: W8GC
Members: K8RGI, KE8OZU, K8RJH, WT8O

Technical

Chair: AC8NW
Members: WJ8WM, N8OVW, KD8ACO,
K8RJH, KB8DTC, KC8ESG

Web Master/email

Chair: W8GC
Member: KE8OZU

Officers

President

Toby Kolman, WT8O
440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Secretary

Matt Perlman, KE8OZU
216-337-1540
matt@seagem.me
Alternate : Matt Neely, NU8H

Programs at Meetings

Chair: KD8BAL
Members: KD8FTS, KE8OZU

Public Service

Chair: KD8FTS
Member: K8ARP

Refreshments

Co-Chairs: K8RJH pop, NU8H donuts,
NU8Y coffee

Sunshine (Welfare)

Chair: KD8SCV

VE Exams

Chair: W8MET

Vice-President

Ron Hollas, K8RJH
216-379-7440
ron@hollas.co

Treasurer

Bob Check, W8GC
216-524-1750
w8gc@breezelineohio.net
Alternate : Matt Perlman, KE8OZU

Board Members

Board members serve two year terms

Board Chair

Mark Moro, WJ8WM
216-498-2871

Alternare Chair: Arp Viiberg, K8ARP

Even Year Executive Board

Members: WJ8WM, KB8DTC, AC8NW

Odd Year Executive Board

Members: K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8FTS

Trustees

K8ZFR Trustee

WT8O

W8BM, W8HBI Trustee

W8GC

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